The Southern PATRIOT

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TRENDS

The New Orleans *Times Picayune* offers a fine service for its busy Negro readers. If they are in a hurry and want to learn anything that might possibly reflect credit to their race, they just have two pages to turn to—the shipping news page and the comics page.

On those pages is the haven of such items as Dr. Bunche's winning the Nobel Prize for Peace (although last year's winner was strictly page one stuff for three editions) and the Army boxing champion who, as a medical corpsman, won a Distinguished Service Cross, in Korea, posthumously.

If it's crime news the Negro wants for his nickle, that too is easily acquired. His people are most prominently labeled in every police action in which they figure.

Society notes? Well, surprisingly enough, it seems that there just isn't any Negro society in New Orleans.

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The SCEF has written to President Truman and Atty. Gen. McGrath urging that the full strength of the government be placed behind the apprehension and prosecution of the persons guilty of the violent attack upon the home of Federal Judge J. Waties Waring of Charleston, S. C.

No Second Class Aboard This Train

—Afro-American

Southern Success Story: Negro Students Welcomed

Almost every day you can find in the Southern press some story about this or that person or group's successful mastering of a problem—economic, technological or geographical—unique to the region.

And "Dixie's progress" ranks next to motherhood on the editorial writer's list of favorite themes.

It is really too bad, since we are graced with such a forward looking journalistic group, that one of the greatest stories of the half-century—the admission of Negroes without segregation to our state universities—should receive such poor coverage.

Oh yes, the Sweatt case, the McLaurin case received plenty of publicity while in the courts. A court suit means there is a dispute, and any reporter knows a fight is news.

But what of the aftermath? How bright does a newspaperman have to be to see vital significance in the fact that an estimated 200 Negroes in 11 states are now attending heretofore Jim Crow institutions? How many people know that the state of Arkansas has voluntarily, without any stalling court action, knocked down the barriers? How many are aware that North Carolina and Florida, reputedly the most liberal of Southern states, have proved among the most stubbornly pig-headed in this regard?

What has been the reception, by faculty and by students, of the Negroes admitted? What provision has been made in regard to recreation and participation in student activities?

This story you won't find in your daily paper. You may, if you have the patience to plough through it, read in the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* reams of fustian rant about the "menace" to "systems long established" that have "bulwarked the republic from its beginning." Or in the Charleston *News and Courier* you may find a blatant threat to close down the public school system as a means to bolster segregation. (Let's burn the house rather than fix the roof! But we doubt that Jim Crow is a Phoenix.)

In the less reactionary Southern press you generally find the editorial columns silent on the issue. The Louisville *Courier-Journal* is an honorable exception; the Atlanta *Constitution* less so. Timidity reigns.

What it all boils down to is that there was no waving of Confederate flags this Fall when Heman Sweatt and 18 others took their rightful seats in the classrooms of the University of Texas. "The Supreme Court . . . has led the South into a truly courageous step toward genuine human equality," was the verdict rendered by the student newspaper, *The Daily Texan.*

There was no cruel snubbing by the teachers and fellow students of Mrs. Hortense Young, a candidate for the Doctor of Laws degree at the University of Louisville,—despite the fact that one of her instructors

(Continued on page two)

Negro Students Welcomed

(Continued from page one)

was prominent in the local Dixiecrat movement.

There is no evidence—nor could there hardly be!—that Negroes who apply for admission to and who attend erstwhile "lily-white" colleges, do so only as "spite" gestures and represent no widespread need or desire. Only five of the Southern states—Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina—have not been brought to heel on the issue.

The reactionaries won't report this, because it shatters their tattered shibboleths. The "liberals" shy off, because it is such a great, moving, and hopeful story that the bare facts, they fear, would lay them open to being called all the nasty things people call newspapers.

Let us consider how much is being done. Let us rejoice that the U. S. Supreme Court's refusal to review Maryland's McCready case kills the hopes of the segregation-minded backers of the Regional Education plan. But let us be not too proud, but keep in mind that we have, in a sense, just made up the losses incurred over the past fifty years. In Kentucky, at the turn of the century, there was no segregation at Berea College. The Presbyterian college of Maryville, in Tennessee, accepted white and colored students without discrimination. And institutions founded by the Congregational Church did likewise over the South.

Let us remember how much is yet to be done. Consider, for example, the law passed by the Oklahoma legislature which declares that only Negro students who are residents of Oklahoma may secure graduate training in Oklahoma. Manifestly, the white graduate student body at Norman is not limited in a similar fashion.

A state certainly has the right to give its own residents preference in choosing the enrollment of its institutions, but never before has a fiat of specific exclusion of other states' citizens been enacted. It smells of petty chicanery.

Still, it has been only 12 years since the Gaines decision, and only 2 years since the first Southern state university admitted a Negro student, yet to day in 8 Southern and 3 border states the racial bars have been lowered. And a state-by-state survey of what is happening will astound the most speedy of gradualists.

Oklahoma

We cannot report accurately the number of Negro students attending Southern universities, and we are glad that is true, for the reason—race is not indicated on registration forms. At Oklahoma and Texas, for example, this is the case, and "a healthy sign," commented a faculty member at Oklahoma University. While official figures cannot be given, we understand that there are 60 graduate students at OU and a fewer number at A. & M. College at Stillwater.

University of Tulsa officials have timidly acted to enroll Negro graduate students in segregated classes to meet at Carver Junior High School.

Kentucky

At the University of Kentucky about 15 Negroes have been enrolled. According to a University professor, they "have been accepted well by the student body," and there have been no "incidents".

University of Louisville

While registration figures were not complete at the time our report was received, at least 20 Negroes had been enrolled: 4 full-time and 4 part-time students in the School of Music; 4 full-time students in the College of Law; 2 full-time students, and 4 part-time students in the Kent School of Social Work; and at least 2 students in the graduate school. None were admitted in the Medical and Dental Schools although several applications were received. The reason given is that admissions for this year were closed before the modification of the Day Law made it possible to accept Negroes.

The University has set up no segregated facilities, and Negroes are free to use the lunchrooms, rest room, etc. No Negroes are living in the limited dormitory quarters.

Berea College

Two Negroes are studying at Berea this Fall, as the amendment of the Day Law and the action of its board of trustees made it possible for the college to resume its historic policy of accepting Negroes. The number is small because the closing date for applicants is April 1st, and the new policy was authorized about that date. It is probable a larger number will be received next year, but the number will be limited because Berea's primary educational service is limited to the young people of the Southern mountains and 90% of its students must come from that region. "We shall continue that policy", Dean Louis Smith stated in a letter, "giving Negro applicants from the mountains exactly the same consideration as white students from this area." Concerning the reception of Negro students, Dean Smith writes:

"As might be expected of Berea students and staff, they have received the Negro students with real cordiality. There has long been a hope that we could resume the admission of Negroes, and there has been sincere pleasure that the old restrictions have been modified. We wish to have all who are enrolled here considered simply as students at Berea College rather than classified as white students or black students or other students.

We deeply believe and seek to realize in practice the words on the college seal, placed there by able and devoted men nearly a century ago: God Hath Made of One Blood All Nations of Men."

Nazareth-Bellarmine-Ursuline

Nazareth College has accepted 25 Negro girls, and Bellarmine, a new college for men, has accepted 3 Negroes, while Ursuline also has Negro students but the exact number is not known.

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Arkansas

About 15 Negroes have been enrolled by the University of Arkansas. Distribution is as follows: At the Fayetteville campus: 4 in the law school, 3 in the Graduate School (2 in education, 1 in agriculture); at Little Rock, 3 students in the School of Medicine, and several students in the various classes of the Extension Division of the Graduate Center. All of the classes are on a completely unsegregated basis.

Our informant, a member of the University faculty, writes,

"As far as I have been able to observe, no discrimination does occur in any of the important aspects of university life, except for the fact that so far no university housing for Negro students has been provided. Viewing the situation in its entirety, I believe that the advances made in the past permit a promising outlook toward the future."

Texas

At the University of Texas, 19 Negroes have been accepted for graduate study, 13 men and 6 women. The majority are doctoral candidates: 1 seeking a law degree, 1 an MA in architecture, and 1 an MA in zoology. The official policy of the university is that all university facilities are open to Negro use, in compliance with the rulings of the Supreme Court. In addition to these students at Austin, 2 Negroes are attending the University Medical School at Galveston.

We are not clear as to whether or not these figures include professional students seeking bachelor's degrees. **The Black Dispatch** for Sept. 30, for example, provides the names and pictures of 4 Negroes enrolled in the law school. In addition to Heman Marion Sweatt, the following are named—James Carruthers, Dudley Redd, Virgil Lott.

Virginia

One graduate student, Gregory Swanson, has been enrolled in the law school of the University of Virginia, as a result of a court order last month. Two students, Alfreda Louise Madison, Richmond school teacher; and G. James Gilliam, graduate of Virginia Union University, are seeking admission to the Richmond Professional Institute, a branch of William and Mary College, part of the extension division of the University of Virginia; while G. W. C. Brown, business manager of the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College, was enrolled in the U. of Va. extension graduate school at Norfolk.

Washington-Lee High School

Following a Federal District Court order, school officials at Arlington, Va., have admitted 7 Negro pupils to a special class in automotive maintenance at Washington-Lee High School. The Negroes, however, use the shop in the afternoon when no white students are present.

Country Day School

Bergundy Farms Country Day School, near Alexandria, Va., has enrolled its first Negro students, Naylor and Richard Fitzhugh, sons of Professor and Mrs. H. Naylor Fitzhugh of Howard University.

Florida

Negro leaders are seeking funds to appeal the decision of the state supreme court on August 1, validating a plan whereby Negroes seeking courses not available at A.&M. College, the segregated school for Negroes, could enroll at the college but receive their instruction at the University of Florida on a temporary basis. As soon as the desired courses could be arranged at A.&M., the students would return to the Jim Crow school.

This plan formulated by the Board of Control of Florida was the state's answer to a suit brought by 5 Negroes seeking admission to the U. of Fla.—they are: William T. Lewis and Rose Body of Martin; Virgil Hawkins of Gainesville; Benjamin Finley of Ocala; and Oliver Maxey of Bethune-Cookman College.

Attitudes of students and administration on the question appear to be at variance. One graduate student is quoted as having said, "If it were left to the students and faculty of the university, qualified Negro students would now be attending the University of Florida." The attitude of the administration may be judged from the remark attributed to Dr. J. Hillis Miller, President of the Univ. of Fla., "segregation in higher education at the present time is in the best interest of the colored people." **(Tampa Bulletin, 7-30-49)**

University of Miami

In our December issue we reported on the work of the Equal Education Committees at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Florida. We are glad to receive a mimeographed announcement from the University of Miami concerning the formation this Spring of the Campus Council on Intergroup Relations. The Council, with Irwin Block as chairman, is an official agency of the Student Association, and works closely with the Department of Human Relations, the "first to offer human relations courses for a major on an undergraduate level," also offering graduate courses. Congratulations to the students and faculty of UM. We hope to hear before long that UM has taken its place with the University of Louisville, as the second municipal university in the South to accept Negroes on an unsegregated basis.

Georgia

The parents of 200 Atlanta school children seeking the right through court action to enroll their children in the all-white public schools (see Oct. S. P.) found an able champion for their cause in Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College and vice-president of the S.C.E.F. Speaking at the Butler St. YMCA, in a speech that was broadcast, Dr. Mays defended the suit as reasonable, timely and democratic. The real issue, the noted educator said, is whether there can be equality in segregated schools. He expressed confidence that Georgia would abide by the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, whatever it may be.

Roy Harris, leader of the Cracker Party, in his weekly newspaper, **The Augusta Courier**, proposed that if the suit should be won, Atlanta "ought to do away with the public school system", and some type of private school system be established by white people.

Tennessee

Acting affirmatively upon the counsel of Attorney General Beeler, the University of Tennessee has notified 3 Negroes that they will be welcome at the University at the winter quarter. They are Lincoln A. Blakeney, seeking admission to the law school; Aubrey L. Totten, chemistry; and Gene Mitchell Gray, bio-chemistry.

In his ruling Atty. Gen. Beeler said: "We must bow to the inevitable and go along as good citizens of the United States. The opinions of that court (Supreme Court) became the law of the land, notwithstanding any opinions that may be entertained by any individuals, however sound they may be."

Louisiana

A three-Judge Federal Court on October 9 issued an interlocutory injunction, ordering Louisiana State University to admit Roy S. Wilson to the law school, and any other Negro similarly situated. Three years ago, when another suit was brought against LSU, the state hastily set up a law school at Southern University, the state-supported school for Negroes. The ruling of the Federal Court, however, pointed out that this Jim Crow school was grossly inferior to that available to whites at LSU.

The ruling pointed out that LSU was accredited by every accrediting agency in the country, while Southern was not accredited by any agency and "except for the law school, it is merely a college and not a university".